

BRAN Serial

JUNE 7TH - 13TH, 2009

BRAN 29 – Pirates of the Plains BRAN is a source of economic development and tourism for the towns we go through. Committees in each town have been hard at work preparing for our arrival. You will have the opportunity to vote for your favorite overnight town in the 16th annual “Best Host Community” contest. Petersburg earned the honor for BRAN 28. The winning town will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to be given to a graduating senior from their community who will be attending a Nebraska College or University. Details about the contest will be given at this evening’s, June 6th, Rider Meeting scheduled for 7:30 PM CDT.

The tradition of an annual BRAN theme started in 1986 with, “A Piece of Cake”. The BRAN Crew tries to be creative and selects a theme as the next year’s ride is determined in July or August. Several years back a number of riders begged for a Pirate theme - “Pirates of the Caribbean” had recently been released. The Crew put the idea on the back burner since the routes just did not seem to fit the theme. This year with all of the lakes and rivers close to the route - the right time was here - “Pirates of the Plains” was chosen.

The smell of rum, sea, and black powder.

The crashing of the waves, and the sails snapping in the wind.

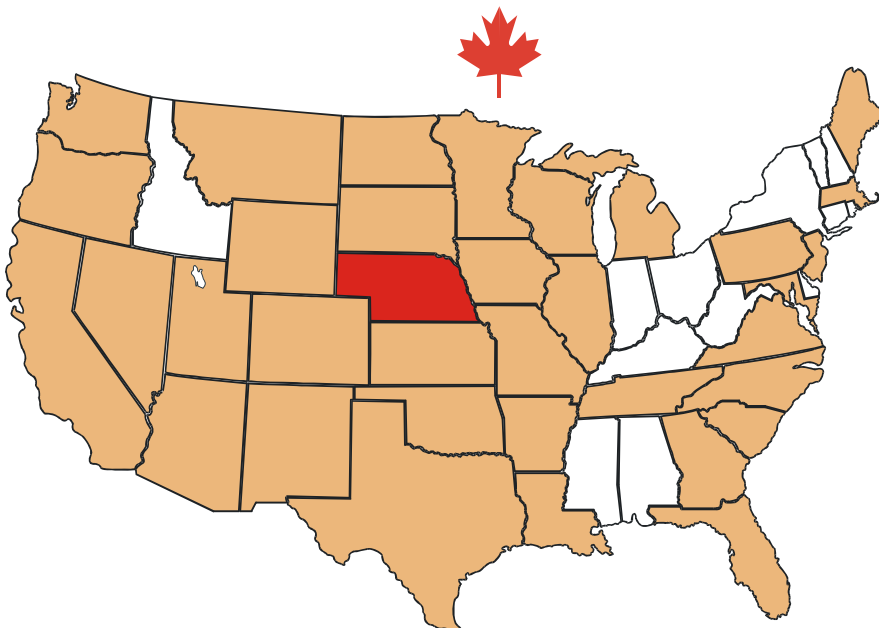
The creaking of timbers over the raucous laughter of gentlemen of fortune.

Mates you are about to set sail to conquer Nebraska and bring back untold treasures.

So, take the women and children off the streets,
tap an extra keg of rum and light the red lamps
'cause with fair winds the Pirates of the Plains
will come a callin to a port near you.



Your seafaring mates for BRAN 29 hail from 35 States and Canada: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and Saskatchewan, Canada.



Riders

4 buses are taking riders to Trenton

34% are 1st time BRAN Riders

of all the BRAN Riders

8% are 19 and under

20% are 20 - 39

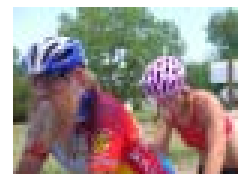
72% are 40+

54% are 50+

13% are 65+

Oldest rider is 85!

One rider will be riding for the 29th time!



Scurvy Mates

Pirate Talk

This year BRAN Riders had a bit of fun getting into the Pirate mood. Here is a bit of humor found on the BRAN Forum.

midlifebiker -

A pirate walks into a bar with a paper towel on his head. The bartender says, "What's with the paper towel?"

The pirate says, "Arrrr! I've got a Bounty on me head!"

notdeadyet

What is a pirates favorite sandwich???
aaarrrrrbbbeeee's

andylibby

A pirate and his parrot were adrift in a lifeboat following a valiant battle. Whilst rummaging through the boat's provisions, the pirate stumbled across an old lamp. Hoping a Genie was inside, he rubbed the lamp vigorously. To his amazement, one appeared in a cloud of smoke. This particular Genie, however, could only grant one wish, not the standard three. Without giving any thought to the matter the pirate blurted out, "Turn the entire ocean into rum!" The Genie clapped his hands and immediately the sea changed into the finest rum ever tasted. Simultaneously, the Genie vanished leaving only the gentle lapping of rum against the hull to break the stillness as the two castaways considered their circumstances.

After a long, tension-filled moment, the parrot looked disgustedly at the pirate and spoke: "Now yee've done it!! Now we're goon to have to pee in the boat."

—jt

A pirate walks into a bar, looking a bit worse for wear: a peg leg, a hook on his arm, and an eye patch. He takes a seat at the bar and a local asks him:

"How'd you get the peg leg?"

The pirate says, "Well, matey, it was durin' a fierce battle an' I got shoved overboard, and a shark bit me leg off."

"Well, what about the hook?"

The pirate takes a long drink, then says, "Durn me if I didn't lose me hand in a swordfight."

"Mercy. And the eye patch?"

"Aye, it was a chance thing, it was. I looked up in the sky, and a seagull pooped in me eye."

"What? You lost an eye because a seagull pooped in it?"

"Well," the pirate says, "it was the first day with me hook."

—jt

Wait, I've got another one:

A man comes home one day to find a parrot on his window ledge. Obviously lost and disoriented, the parrot needs some care, so the man opens the window and lets the parrot in.

It quickly becomes obvious that this parrot had been the companion of a pirate, and a particularly foul-mouthed one at that. Every other word out of the parrot is a foul epithet. Just the worst language, intolerable.

Not knowing what else to do, the man stuffs the parrot in the freezer. After a few minutes of vile squawking, the bird settles down, and the man finally takes the bird out of the freezer.

"Ok," says the parrot. "I get the message. No more foul language."

"But," the bird continues, "just one question: What did the chicken do?"

jimcity3000

I tend to usually be in the State of Confusion. In fact, that will be the name of my sailboat - I'll buy if I win the lottery from a ticket purchased in a little hamlet.

—jt

- Queen Anne's Revenge.
- Sudden Death
- Sea Nymph
- Indian Queen
- Cour Valant
- Bachelor's Delight
- Adventure

Pirates were nothing if not colorful in the naming of their ships. It occurs to me that we will need to christen our crafts with names of their own.

What's a good name to give a Nebraska-faring two-wheeler?

- The MegaSOREass?
- The Flying Husker?
- Sudden Bonk?

What will you name yours?



Remember to give the crew the appropriate signal when they pass by.

The more visible tap on the top of the helmet

will definitely get the attention of the Roving SAGs

Crew Planning the ride takes many hours and a lot of communication among each of the committee members. Several crewmembers have been involved in all aspects of the ride.

Flamingo Kid: - The original inspiration for BRAN came from Ray "Flamingo Kid" Weinberg.

The ever popular Tour Guide is written by **Ray** and his wife, **Sandi** "Flamingo Lady". So not only do you get to see the state up close by riding; you get to learn the history of the area you are traveling through. In addition to performing numerous other administrative tasks; Ray has written and documented guidelines, procedures and policies to coordinate BRAN. After 28 years of testing . . . he may have it down to a science but we still use a disclaimer, "Beware all mileage totals are by dead reckoning and may be a wee bit off." Ray and Sandi also drove the route backwards to Trenton to check for any snags along the route. Sandi coordinates the rider meetings. Raymond is often working behind the scenes to make sure the sags are equipped with everything they need to support the riders and to ensure the safety of the riders. They will be joined by "*Flamingo Grandkid*" Austin Heim (age 11) who will be doing some riding with grandma and great-grandparents Herb and Theresa Andrews (along on their 28th BRAN).

Co-chair **Fred** "EasyRider" and **Eunice** "Sweeper" **Jalass** are the explorers.



Last July, they ventured into the unknown. Checking the routes of the prior years as well as speaking to the natives; they developed the route for BRAN 29. Finding the host communities for BRAN 29 to be receptive and eager to host the BRAN travelers; they plotted this year's ride. They have visited each host town and fielded many of the questions raised by the locals. Fred has dreamed up the routes since 1991. As an immigrant from East Germany, he truly enjoys the freedom of showing off the state's splendor. They have participated on BRAN rides since 1986 as riders, roving sag drivers, trail markers and the BRAN committee. The editing, layout and printing of the various forms, tour guide, letters and printed materials for BRAN is all part of their responsibility.

What does EasyRider have planned for 2010?



— Important New — BRAN Safety Rules



BRAN has had an exceptional safety record and your organizers want to keep it that way. In the last few years, we have noticed an increase in the number of riders who are riding in an unsafe manner. As a result, we have implemented a set of reasonable procedures to deal with our few violators.

1. **BRAN Crew** members and **Roving SAG** drivers will be on the lookout for anyone riding unsafe. A warning will be issued and the rider's number recorded. You will know you have been warned.
2. If you are warned and have a repeat violation, you will be directed to leave the ride.
3. If issues still exist, you will be permanently banned from registering for BRAN in the future.
4. These are the kind of unsafe acts that can give rise to a warning.
 - 🚲 Not using a rideable shoulder
 - 🚲 Crossing the highways centerline without intending to turnaround or to stop.
 - 🚲 Staying 2-3 abreast on an un-shouldered road, especially going uphill.
 - 🚲 Back tracking against the route on un-shouldered roads.
 - 🚲 Notification of an unsafe act by a law enforcement officer.
 - 🚲 Violation of the Nebraska State Traffic Laws including those affecting bicycling.
 - 🚲 Not following instructions from a **BRAN Crew** member or **Roving SAG** driver.
5. Riders who have been warned will have their rider number posted at the BRAN Camp headquarter and the Baggage Truck.

We want you to have a good time on BRAN. We want you to have a safe ride. We need riders to self-police themselves. Sometimes it is the most experienced riders who are the biggest problem. While dealing with other riders and vehicles, they over estimate their ability to ride safely. In the wide open spaces of Nebraska we have a false sense of security. Ride as if you were on a busy city street even though you are riding in the country. We cannot have one or two riders jeopardize the fun and enjoyment of the other 600 riders.

Remember, two days are the most difficult! The first day; we are full of vim and vigor and ride that way. And the last day; we encounter the traffic in the eastern part of our state.

Private Vehicle Safety Part of the tradition and beauty of the BRAN experience is traveling the less traveled roads of Nebraska. But this can be lost with the "Rush Hour" traffic caused by Private Vehicles. With 600 cyclists, private support vehicles, tourists and local traffic, this creates congestion and increases the potential for accidents!

First and foremost in the minds of the BRAN committee is **SAFETY**. We respectfully request that **ALL** personal vehicles travel on alternate routes between overnight towns (BRAN Tour Guide has recommended alternate routes - BRAN Private Vehicle Guide has suggestions for interesting side trips). BRAN Stationary and Roving SAGs will provide ample support vehicles for the riders on the route.

Red marks the riders' route, Black marks your suggested route in the Tour Guide and Private Vehicle Guidelines. (Special bright green 11x11 road signs will be posted in the overnight towns to direct the vehicles to the campgrounds. Please watch for them. Check your guide for the routes, they will not be made otherwise)

If riders' safety is impeded by any Private Vehicle, BRAN reserves the right to remove the Private Vehicle and their riders from the ride.

News & Press Releases -

Please send any clippings that appear (before, during or after) the ride from your local paper.

Please send them to:

BRAN, Inc.
4205 North 101st Street
Omaha, NE 68134

Or email to:
fred@imp114.omhcoxmail.com

Thank You for Your Support



Private Vehicles Do you have a Private Vehicle? **All vehicles must be registered.**

Access to overnight campgrounds will be controlled and local law enforcement personnel will allow only registered vehicles on the campgrounds. Vehicles will be assigned numbers much like the riders. Numbers are to be displayed on the dashboard on the right side of your vehicle. They must be readily visible.

Vehicle drivers are advised to **not** drive along the BRAN route if at all possible. For a good portion of the ride, alternative highways parallel the BRAN route. You are encouraged to use these alternative routes. If an alternative route is not available, only drive on the route in flow and direction of the riders. Driving against the grain on shoulderless roads creates a hazard and interferes with the Official BRAN Roving Sags (who will be going in both directions.) **Get registered!**

This year there will be nightly Private Vehicle meetings. Check your Private Vehicle Guide for more information on the meetings AND other great information. You only receive the guide if you are registered.



— Law enforcement officials have been known to ticket riders and private vehicles for unsafe practices.

SLEEP UNDER THE STARS

BRAN is planned to be a camping vacation. But there may be some soft beds available. For a contribution to the host community fund raiser, you may find that soft bed or hot shower. Check with the Host Community Coordinator when you arrive in town. There may be space available. . . .

BRAN Courtesy

Everywhere BRAN riders go they are guests and should treat their hosts with respect. Make sure you are a good guest.

1. Don't litter. Carry your own trash along the ride and dispose of it properly – not in a field. Pick up your trash in the campgrounds and drop it in the containers provided.
2. Respect the property of others. Don't damage fences and crops. Leave our host communities' campgrounds/schools/facilities in better condition than you find them.
3. Keep the campground quiet. Most riders want to get a good night's sleep. Please, no noise after 9pm.
4. Camp only where directed. Host communities go to a great deal of effort to set up the campgrounds. Groups or individuals who camp outside the designated areas create problems for them.



WHAT BRAN PROVIDES

BRAN is a community service project of the Rotary Club of Omaha Northwest with the assistance of the Omaha Pedalers Bicycle Club.

- o **Sport and Recreation** - for 600 cyclists and their accompanying friends and family.
- o **Fellowship** - for Northwest Rotarians who work together exemplifying "service about self".
- o **Visibility** - for both cycling and the Northwest Rotary Club throughout the state and nationally.
- o **Safety** - for a fun event where the participant's safety is of foremost concern.
- o **Community Service** - for statewide impact by providing money to fund scholarships for Nebraska High School graduates to Nebraska colleges and universities.
- o **Fund Raising** - for providing a means to establish an endowment to perpetuate its scholarship activities.
- o **Rural-Urban Interaction** - for an opportunity to bring people from rural and urban Nebraska together for a common cause.
- o **Support for Cycling** - for being the premier cycling event in the state and by sponsoring the Omaha Pedalers Bicycle Club Hotline.
- o **Tourism** - for the experience of seeing the beauty of Nebraska and appreciating its rich history.
- o **Economic Development** - for generating significant economic activity for villages, towns, and cities throughout the state.

Please stay alert.

The BRAN Crew thanks you all.
Have a great and safe ride.

SAGs

BRAN Sags help propel BRAN riders down the road. There are two types of sags—stationary and roving. Stationary sags have water, fruit and basic first-aid supplies. The volunteers who staff the stationary sags work long hard hours in sun and rain so you can have a safe and enjoyable ride.

Roving SAGs

Roving sags work the road many times each day. They transport riders, water and supplies. To flag down a roving sag, the traditional thumbs down sign will suffice. The more visible tap on the top of the helmet was introduced last year.

The roving sags are not BRAN taxicabs. They have 600 riders to support and need to cover a lot of miles. Often, because of road conditions or soft shoulders, they cannot fully pull off the road. So try to give them a wide berth. Also, late in the day, these sags have to cover as much as 40 miles so keep an eye out for them. A typical day for a roving sag driver is 10-12 hours lifting hundreds of pounds of ice, water and supplies.

Buccaneer Bill Tarbox is a veteran BRAN rider, stationary and roving sag driver. He is dependable and goes the extra mile to help out.

Double Duty Leroy Leist will be navigating a roving sag again this year. This is his ninth year helping out. Leroy also assumes the role of semi driver. 2-4-18 wheels - Double Duty is there.

Rookie No More Jason Amdor keeps coming back. He found out what all the hype is all about. Even after finding out about the long hours, he will try to spend some time on his bike again this year.

Raymond also drives a roving SAG. Grandson Austin will assist. If you see flashing lights from his visor and his truck moving quickly down the roadway, he is out to conquer another obstacle in the way of a safe journey.

Stationary SAGs

Ranger - SAG coordinator is **Ted Roche**, he will not be on the ride. This past year he has passed his years of experience onto Phil.

Kolache Kid" - Phil Bohaty a veteran BRAN rider and SAG is from Ceresco, NE. He has a gold Chrysler Town and Country. His wife Barb and daughter Zoe will be assisting with SAG duties and



riding. **Kolache Toddler** also assists with SAG duties. **Kolache Toddler** will be celebrating her 8th on June 11th.

Apple Core – Senior SAG is Omahan **Linda Hoagland**. Linda began her tour 28 years ago in 1982. Linda has a Yellow Ford Escape.

Sunbonnet – **Kathy Graham** is back for the 23rd year. Kathy has a Plymouth Voyager pulling a white trailer. And for the second year to SAG duties, but by no means a novice is "**Friar Bill**" **Bill Graham**. Bill has ridden BRAN each year that Kathy has been a SAG for us. The first 4 days of BRAN you will find him with a Ford Ranger. The Graham's are from Alliance NE.

Rosemary Holeman is back after missing her BRAN family last year. As a former rider, she knows just the right place for a SAG stop.

Kim Scherlie is a familiar face in the Private Vehicle crowd. She is in her Rookie year - changing from supporting 1 (husband Doug) to supporting 600. She has done support for other rides and we know she will fit right into the BRAN Crew.

Alice and Ray Smith, the *M.O.B. Squad* are now in Malawi, Africa doing missionary work in Africa.



As you will note, all of these SAGs have a great deal of experience, so please respect their requests and suggestions. They are a group of dedicated individuals who put in many hours each day to help make your day more enjoyable. Watch for the BIG ORANGE FLAGS to show you there is a SAG just ahead. They will have an "Official BRAN SAG" sign posted.



Remember to pull completely off the road when stopping at the SAG stops. Use the trash bags provided for your garbage. And be sure to use caution when resuming your ride as you enter back into traffic.

The Rest of the Crew

Serving as Camp Directors again this year are **Wes Galusha** and **Jim Willcockson** (Jim will be taking a turn at Roving SAG also). Assisting them and riding is **Dick Galusha** and **Verne Carson**. They will work with the contact person in each overnight town to see that the campgrounds are ready when the cyclists arrive and will help answer any questions the riders

have. They will also be handling the BRAN Boutique and the Lost and Found. Please be sure to look for the BRAN headquarters flag.

**Headquarter times are
Noon – 5:00pm and 7:00 to 8:00pm**

Medical – Medical Support will be provided by veteran BRAN rider **Rose Leavitt RN** "*Florence Nightingale*". Plus this year we will have a riding **EMT - Steve Bastron** on the road.

REMINDER: Please visit the medical station (BRAN Headquarters) as soon as you come into camp with a problem. As a rider, Rose needs to eat and sleep like the rest of you.

**Nurse hour times are
7:00pm – 8:00pm
at the BRAN Headquarters**

The design for the t-shirt, tour guide cover, water bottle, luggage tags and poster was developed by Veteran BRAN rider, **Marty Shukert**. Marty also created the BRAN maps.

Jim Hedgpeth veteran BRAN rider is in charge of handling many of the safety issues. He has notified the state patrol, county sheriffs, and volunteer rescue departments along the BRAN route. He is responsible for making them aware of the ride, our needs in terms of safety and asking for support when the bicyclists are in their area. Jim also arranges the phones for the SAGs to have in case of an emergency.

Don and Gloria Glissmann delivered BRAN posters to the communities and overnight towns prior to the ride.

Mechanical
— **Bike Rack** —
— **Bike Masters** —
— **Cycle Works** —

will provide bike shop support on the road as well as in camp each evening.

Coordinating the bus loading is BRAN committee member **Arnie Jacobson**. BRAN riders serving as bus captains and helping at registration are **Ken** and **Carol Deman**. Also helping at Registration are veteran riders **Erin Sullivan** and **Carol Kozel**.

Kevin Fusselman and **Jason Amdor**, Roving SAG, design and maintain the BRAN web site www.bran-inc.org. **Terri Spencer** serves as Moderator. Check the website after the ride to see pictures from this year's ride . . .

. . . you can contribute also.



Host Community Contacts

Trenton - Karen Keller
308-334-5512
karen_ek62@yahoo.com

Cambridge - Mark McCurdy
308-697-3400
marksrx@swnebr.net

Alma - Bonnie Nurnberg
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bnurnbe@megavision.com

Superior - Shannon McCord
402-879-5350
sdmccord@hotmail.com

Wymore - Lori Novotny
402-645-3693
mainstreethairdesign@live.com

Humboldt - Gina Bittner
402-862-5417
gbittner@oakmail.peru.edu

Syracuse - Bobbi Nannen
402-269-2028
the5thstcentrestudio@windstream.net



Thanks to all of the Host Community Volunteers!

A note of thanks may be in order
Drop them a line,
I'm sure they will appreciate it

Tour Guide Advertisers

Doesn't the Tour Guide look GREAT? This is the largest ever with 128 pages, 20 pages more than ever before. Support the local advertisers - they made it possible.

Remember to keep hydrated -
Drink plenty of water



To all Rotary Club of Omaha Northwest members who have helped with BRAN 29, *we give a special thanks.*



Members on BRAN 29 are Ray Weinberg, Fred Jalass, Dick Galusha, Brian Stokes, and Wes Galusha. Back in Omaha, Keith Basham organized the bus loading. The Rider Reception will be coordinated by Patrick Lavell.

Dubious Awards Night

7:30 pm - Syracuse

Friday, June 12th get together with your fellow riders. To make the event even more fun...turn in a dubious award for that crazy thing you caught one of your fellow riders doing. Awards can be turned into any of the BRAN Crew members.

Just make sure you do it before 4pm Friday evening

Exchange names, addresses and e-mail addresses, vote for your favorite host community, complete a rider survey.

In 7 days BRAN 29 Pirates of the Plains



Will be Just be a Memory

But, if you have gone digital - send your digital pictures to kevin@fusselman.org.

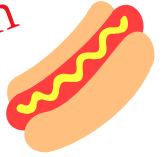
You may see you and your BRAN Friends on www.bran-inc.org. We can share our memories together.

Join the BRAN Forum www.bran-inc.org

- share your memories
- find out who won Best Host
- find clues for next year's ride
- exchange your thoughts & suggestions
- see the survey results
- ask questions
- provide answers

Check the side of the BRAN Baggage Truck see the LARGE moving BRAN bulletin board

BRAN 29 Reception



The BRAN 29 Reception Committee members have been hard at work rounding up refreshments for the riders to have at the end of the ride on Saturday, June 13th at Chalco Hills. Part of the registration fee helps provide this gourmet feast.

Donations are accepted from all others who wish to partake in this culinary delight and support the BRAN Scholarship Fund.

—9:00am to 12:30pm—

Thanks!



On behalf of the **BRAN Crew**, we are happy to have you travel along and enjoy the ride.

Rotary Club of Omaha
Northwest and
Omaha Pedalers
Bicycle Club



Roll into Chalco Hills on Time

All baggage needs be claimed by 1:00pm CDT